

THIRD EDITION

A
**COMMUNICATIVE
GRAMMAR
OF ENGLISH**

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435 Part Three of this book, called ‘A–Z in English grammar’, covers all the important areas of English grammatical form and structure, and is arranged alphabetically under topic headings. The arrangement is alphabetical because this part of the grammar is primarily meant to be used for reference, especially as an explanation of grammatical terms and categories referred to in Part Two.

Each entry in ‘A–Z in English Grammar’ has a reference to the most relevant sections of *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* (abbreviated *CGEL*, see preliminary page xi), so that, if required, a more detailed treatment of the topic can be consulted in that book.

Adjective patterns

(see *CGEL* 16.68–83)

436 Adjectives can have different types of complement, such as

- a prepositional phrase: I feel very sorry *for Ann*.
- a *that-clause*: Everybody’s pleased *that she is making such good progress*.
- a *to-infinitive*: I’m glad *to hear she is recovering*.

Adjectives with a prepositional phrase: *Ready for lunch?*

437 Adjectives are followed by different prepositions. As a dictionary will tell you, a particular adjective usually requires a particular preposition: *curious about*, *good at*, *ready for*, *interested in*, *afraid of*, *keen on*, *close to*, *content with*, etc. Adjectives with prepositions are often -ed adjectives, i.e. participial adjectives like *worried (about)*, *interested (in)*. Here are some examples:

Planners are **worried about** the noise and dirt in our environment.

I may have sounded a bit **annoyed at** her for turning up late.

Would you be **interested in** writing an article for our magazine?

The reader must be **convinced of** what is happening at one time, and not **surprised at** sudden changes of character and place.

I was increasingly **conscious of** being watched.

Anna was **uncertain of** what the words meant.

Industry is **independent of** natural conditions, while agriculture is continually **dependent on** the fluctuations of nature.

This film is **based on** a best-selling novel.

Adjectives with a *that-clause*: *I’m not sure (that) I understand.*

438 Adjectives which take a *that*-clause as complement may have personal subjects or introductory *it* as subject.

Adjectives with personal subjects

That is often omitted (called ‘zero *that*’). Here are two sets of adjectives which have *that*-clauses as complement:

- ‘Certainty adjectives’ such as *certain*, *confident*, *convinced*, *positive*, *sure*

We are **confident** (that) Fran will have a brilliant career.

Everybody’s **sure** (that) she can do it.

- ‘Affective adjectives’ such as *afraid*, *alarmed*, *annoyed*, *astonished*, *disappointed*, *glad*, *hopeful*, *pleased*, *shocked*, *surprised*

Bill was **disappointed** (that) Betty hadn’t phoned.

I’m **glad** (that) you were able to cheer them up a bit.

Such adjectives can also have a prepositional phrase as complement (see 437): *confident about*, *sure of*, *disappointed with*, *glad of*, etc. But note that, in English, a preposition cannot introduce a *that*-clause. Compare:

They were **pleased at** the good news.

BUT: They were **pleased that** the news was good. (NOT **pleased at that the news ...*)

When the *that*-clause expresses something as an ‘idea’ rather than as a ‘fact’ (expressing joy, surprise, etc.), it contains *should* (see ‘putative *should*’ 280–1):

We were **amazed** that the cost should be so high.

Adjectives with introductory *it* as subject or object

Adjectives with *that*-clauses frequently have introductory *it* as subject or object (see 542):

It’s **possible** that we’ll all be a bit late.

Is it **true** that Liz never turned up?

We find it **odd** that this city has no university.

Other adjectives with *it*-constructions and *that*-clauses are, for example *certain*, *curious*, *evident*, *extraordinary*, *fortunate*, *important*, *likely*, *obvious*, *probable*, *sad*. Many are *-ing* adjectives, i.e. they have the form of an *-ing* participle: *disconcerting*, *embarrassing*, *fitting*, *frightening*, *irritating*, *shocking*, *surprising*.

When the *that*-clause expresses something as an ‘idea’ rather than as a ‘fact’ (expressing joy, surprise, etc.) the *that*-clause often contains ‘putative *should*’ (see 280–1):

The school board considered it **essential** that the opinions of teachers **should be** ascertained.

Instead of *should* + verb the *that-clause* can have the alternative constructions with the verb in the subjunctive, i.e. just the base form. This is more common in <AmE> than in <BrE> (see 706):

The school board considered it **essential** that the opinions of teachers **be** ascertained.

Adjectives with a *to-infinitive*: *It's good to have you back.*

439 There are different types of adjectives which have a construction with *to-infinitive*, for example:

Sue is **wrong** to say a thing like that. [1]

Such people are **hard** to find nowadays. [2]

'I'm **delighted** to be here', the speaker said. [3]

Many dealers were **quick** to purchase the new shares. [4]

The meanings of the four constructions are different, as can be seen from these paraphrases:

It's **wrong** of Sue to say a thing like that. [1a]

It's **hard** to find such people nowadays. [2a]

'It makes me **delighted** to be here', the speaker said. [3a]

Many dealers **quickly** purchased the new shares. [4a]

Type [1] Other adjectives like *wrong* in [1] are *clever, cruel, good, kind, naughty, nice, rude, silly, splendid, stupid*:

He was **silly** to go ahead with the plan.

Note the position of *not* and *never* before the *to-infinitive*:

He was **silly not to follow** your advice.

They were **stupid never to take** the opportunity offered.

Type [2] Other examples of adjectives like *hard* in [2] are:

The extent of this tendency is **difficult** to assess.

All this is very **easy** to arrange.

Your question is of course **impossible** to answer.

Similarly: *convenient, enjoyable, fun* <informal>, *good, pleasant*. The construction with introductory *it* [2a] is the more common and sometimes the only possible alternative:

It's **difficult** to assess the extent of this tendency.

It was really **good** to see you before Christmas.

It is **important** to create a new image of the Church.

It's almost **impossible** to say this in English.

It would be **nice** to have a portable TV at the end of one's bed.

It is now **possible** to make considerable progress in the negotiations.

It is **necessary** to distinguish between English and Scots law.

The infinitive clause can have a subject introduced by *for*:

It is **necessary for you** to distinguish between English and Scots law.

Type [3] Here are more examples of adjectives like *delighted* in [3]:

She'll be **furious** to see him behave that way.

I'm **glad** to see you looking so well.

If interviewed I should be **pleased** to provide further references.

I'm very **sorry** to learn that Hattie has been ill.

I'm rather **surprised** to learn that you have sold your stocks.

Other adjectives with this construction, all of which express some kind of emotion, are *amazed*, *angry*, *annoyed*, *disappointed*, *worried*.

Type [4] Other examples of adjectives like *quick* in [4]:

Nick is **willing** to do the hard work. ('Nick does it willingly')

The management was **careful** to avoid all mention of the problem. ('carefully avoided')

The police were **prompt** to act. ('acted promptly')

The entertainment industry has been **slow** to catch on. ('has caught on slowly')

There are also other adjectives which take an infinitive-construction but do not fit into the four types described:

We might be **able** to afford a new car.

I've been **unable** to contact him during the past week or so.

Ann is now very **anxious** to return to her university.

There are **bound** to be economic differences between distant parts of the country.

Our boss is always **ready** to listen to the views of others.

Adjectives

(see CGEL 7.1–22, 31–44)

440 Here are four features of adjectives:

- Most adjectives can have two uses: attributive and predicative. An attributive adjective occurs before the noun it modifies:

This is a **difficult** problem.

A predicative adjective occurs as the complement of a linking verb. Linking verbs (also called copular verbs, see 719) are *be*, *seem*, etc.:

This problem is **difficult**.

- Most adjectives can be modified by degree adverbs like *very*, *quite*, *rather*, etc. (see 217):

I'm on **quite** good terms with him.

- Most adjectives can have comparative and superlative forms (see 500):

We have a **bigger** problem than inflation – our **biggest** problem now is high unemployment.

This must be one of the **most beautiful** buildings in Europe.

- Many adjectives are derived from nouns and can be recognized by their endings, e.g. *-ous* (*fame* ~ *famous*), *-ic* (*base* ~ *basic*), *-y* (*sleep* ~ *sleepy*), *-ful* (*beauty* ~ *beautiful*).

Attributive-only adjectives: *She's our chief financial adviser.*

441 Most adjectives can be both attributive and predicative, but some adjectives can only be used in attributive position, for example:

She was the **former** prime minister.

The adjective *former* can be related to the adverb *formerly*:

She was **formerly** the prime minister.

Here are some more such adjectives, where each example with an attributive-only meaning is followed by an example of its corresponding adverb:

Many changes occurred in Asia in the **late** 1990s.

~ I've not heard much from her **lately**.

They went to an **occasional** play.

~ **Occasionally** they went to see a play.

He was a popular colleague and a **hard** worker.

~ He worked **hard**. [NB same form of the adjective and adverb **hard**]

Some attributive-only adjectives are derived from nouns, for example:

A new **criminal** justice bill will soon come before Parliament. (**crime** ~ **criminal**: ‘a bill concerned with the punishment of crimes’)

He thought **atomic** weapons had deadened the finest feeling that had sustained mankind for ages. (**atom** ~ **atomic**)

There will be no need for a **medical** examination. (**medicine** ~ **medical**)

The predicative use of adjectives: *I feel sick.*

442

- Adjectives can be used predicatively as subject complement after linking verbs like *be*, *seem*, *look*, *feel* (see 491, 719):

[A]: I feel **sick**.

[B]: Yes, you do look **awful**.

- Adjectives can also be used predicatively as object complement after verbs like *consider*, *believe*, *find* (see 733):

It makes me **sick** to see how people spoil the environment.

- Adjectives can be complement to a subject which is a finite clause (see 492):

Whether the minister will resign is still **uncertain**.

But the construction with introductory *it* gives end-weight (see 408) and is the more common:

It is still **uncertain** whether the minister will resign.

- Adjectives can also be complement to a non-finite clause (see 493):

Driving a bus isn't so **easy** as you may think.

- Although most adjectives can be used both attributively and predicatively (see 440), some groups of adjectives are predicative-only. One such group is ‘health adjectives’ like *faint*, *ill*, and *well*:

Oh doctor, I feel **faint**.

Several people are critically **ill** after the accident.

He doesn't look **well**, does he Anna?

When *faint* is not a health adjective but means ‘slight’ it can be attributive:

Katie bears a **faint** resemblance to my sister.

- Some predicative-only adjectives, including *afraid*, *fond*, *present*, *ready*, are often followed by clauses:

I'm **afraid** I don't really agree with that, Bill.

or prepositional phrases (see 437):

I'm very **fond** of Hemingway.

I hope you are **ready** for some hard work. ('I hope you are prepared for some hard work.'

All the persons **who were present** at the meeting were in favour of the proposal. ('All the persons who attended the meeting ...')

Some such adjectives can also precede a noun, but with different meanings: *fond memories* are 'sweet memories', a *ready answer* is 'an answer which was given readily', *the present situation* means 'the situation at the present time'.

Adjectives after the head:*all the problems involved*

443

- An adjective which modifies a noun is usually placed before its head (see 596). This is the attributive position: *the difficult problems*. But some adjectives, especially predicative-only adjectives (see 442), are placed immediately after the head they modify: *the problems involved*:

This is one of the problems **involved** in the scheme.

~ This is one of the problems **that are involved** in the scheme.

Such adjectives can usually be regarded as reduced relative clauses (see 686):

All the persons **present** at the meeting were in favour of the proposal.

~ All the persons **who were present** at the meeting were in favour of the proposal.

The two adjectives *involved* and *present* cannot be attributive with the same meaning: we cannot say *the present persons* or *the involved problems* in these sentences.

- Quantifiers (amount words) ending in *-body*, *-one*, *-thing*, *-where* can only have modifying adjectives placed after them:

How long does it take to train **somebody new** on the job? ('How long does it take to train **somebody** who is **new** on the job?')

The chairman's remark astonished **everyone present**.

Is there **anything interesting** in the papers today?

Think of **somewhere nice** to go for the next weekend!

- There are adjective phrases consisting of an adjective plus an infinitive, as in
These dogs are **easy to teach**.

Such phrases cannot come before a noun as head. We can **not** say

*The easiest to teach dogs are Labrador retrievers.

But the adjective + infinitive phrase can be placed after its noun head:

The dogs **easiest to teach** are Labrador retrievers.

The corresponding construction with a relative clause is more common in <informal> English:

~ The dogs **that are easiest to teach** are Labrador retrievers.

The construction with the adjective placed after its head is also used for other types of complement, such as *than*-clauses:

Our neighbours have a house **much larger than ours**.

But it is more usual to separate the adjective and its complement:

The **easiest** dogs **to teach** are Labrador retrievers.

Our neighbours have a **much larger** house **than ours**.

Adjectives and participles: *Emma's attitude is rather surprising*.

444 There are many adjectives that have the same form as -ing or -ed participles (see 574):

Emma's attitude is rather **surprising**.

The professor had been **retired** for several years.

These adjectives can also be attributive:

We were struck by Emma's rather **surprising** attitude.

The **retired** professor seemed to spend most of his time on his yacht.

A verb corresponding to the adjective may have a different meaning. Compare these two uses:

Relieved used as an adjective:

We are very **relieved** to know that you are all right. ('glad, pleased')

Relieved used as the past participle of the verb *relieve*:

Our anxiety was **relieved** by the good news. ('eased, lessened')

The different functions of a form used as adjective and as participle are not always obvious.

- It is clear that an *-ing* form is a present participle (and not an adjective) when a direct object is present:

The teacher was ***entertaining*** students at her home together with other friends.

But ***entertaining*** is an adjective in:

The teacher was brilliantly ***entertaining*** in her lecture.

- For both *-ed* and *-ing* forms, modification by the adverb *very* indicates that the forms are adjectives:

The poor attendance at the meeting is not ***very encouraging***.

His remarks made me ***very annoyed***.

When used as a verb, *annoyed* is modified by *very much*:

His remarks ***annoyed*** me ***very much***.

Adjective or adverb?

(see CGEL 7.6–11, 7.71–3)

445 Most adverbs in English are derived from adjectives by the addition of *-ly*: *quick* ~ *quickly*, *careful* ~ *carefully*, etc. (see 464). But there are some adverbs which do not end in *-ly*, for example *direct*, *fast*, *hard*, *high*, *late*, *long*, *straight*, *wrong*. These words can be used both as adjectives and adverbs. In the following pairs, the first is an example of the word used as an adjective, and the second is an example of the word used as an adverb:

I think she has a ***direct*** line.

~ Why don't you call her ***direct***?

Bill is a ***fast*** driver.

~ Don't drive too ***fast***.

Alice is a ***hard*** worker.

~ Alice works ***hard*** at preparing new teaching materials.

That wall is too ***high*** to climb.

~ Don't aim too ***high***.

We met in ***late*** August.

~ The modern industrial city developed relatively ***late***.

What I really need now is a ***long*** rest.

~ You mustn't stay too ***long***.

It was a long ***straight*** road.

~ The best thing would be to go ***straight*** back to Stockholm.

I may have said the ***wrong*** thing once too often.

~ There's always the chance of something going ***wrong***.

These adverbs are mostly connected with time, position and direction. In some cases, there is also an adverb in *-ly* (*directly*, *hardly*, *lately*, *shortly*), but with a different meaning:

Don't hesitate to get in touch with us ***directly*** ('immediately').

We've had ***hardly*** any replies to our advertisement. (***hardly any*** = 'almost no')

I haven't seen him ***lately*** ('recently').

We'll be in touch with you again ***shortly***. ('soon')

There is a meaning difference between ***strong*** as an adjective and ***strongly*** as an adverb in:

Ben felt ***strong*** enough to win the contest. (***strong*** = 'fit, powerful')

Ben felt ***strongly*** enough about the suggestion to object. (***strongly*** = 'firmly')

Early can be used both as adjective and adverb:

The ***early*** bird catches the worm.

~ I hate having to get up too ***early***.

The population explosion occurred in the ***early*** part of the nineteenth century.

~ I'll see you after you return ***early*** in February.

Some words ending in *-ly* can be used only as adjectives:

That's a ***lovely*** present!

That was an ***ugly*** incident.

Adjectives as complements: *It tastes good.*

446 An adjective is used after verbs like *taste* and *smell*. Here we consider the adjective to be a complement (see 508), not an adverbial:

The food tasted ***good***. ('The food was good to taste.')

I thought the dish smelled absolutely ***revolting***.

Well is the adverb corresponding to the adjective *good*:

Grace is a **good** writer. ~ Grace writes **well**.

But *well* can also be used as an adjective. In these examples both *good* and *well* are adjectives (but with different meanings):

Those cakes look **good**. ('Those cakes look as if they taste good.')

Your mother looks **well**. ('Your mother seems to be in good health.')

Do you drive slow or slowly?

447 Compare these expressions:

a **rapid** car ~ drive **rapidly** [BUT NOT *drive **rapid**]

[1]

a **slow** car ~ drive **slowly** OR drive **slow**

[2]

[1] represents the normal case where there is regular variation between form and function of the adjective (*rapid*) and adverb (*rapidly*). In [2] *slow* can function both as adjective and adverb. Here is another example:

You can buy these things very **cheap/cheaply** now when the sale is on.

There is no difference in meaning between *drive slow* and *drive slowly* or *buy cheap* and *buy cheaply*, but the adjective form tends to be more <informal>:

Why do you have to drive so **slow** when there's no speed limit here?

The days passed and **slowly** the spring came. <rather elevated>

The form without *-ly* is especially common in comparative and superlative constructions. Again, the adverb form is the more <formal>:

We have to look **closer/more closely** at these problems.

Let's see who can run **quickest/most quickly**.

In their base form (i.e. when they are not comparative or superlative) these words would normally end in *-ly*: *look closely*, *run quickly*.

In <AmE conversation> *real* and *good* are commonly used as adverbs in expressions like *Ann's playing real good today*, corresponding to usual <BrE> *Ann's playing really well today*.

Adjectives as heads

(see CGEL 7.23–26)

448 The typical function of adjectives is to modify the head of a noun phrase: *the rich*

people, a supernatural phenomenon. But some adjectives can themselves be heads of noun phrases: *the rich, the supernatural*. There are two kinds of such adjectives, both with generic reference (see 90):

- Adjectives denoting a class of people (plural), for example *the rich* = ‘those who are rich’:

We must care for ***the elderly, the unemployed, the homeless, the sick and the poor, the weak and the vulnerable.***

Many people prefer the term ***the physically challenged*** to ***the disabled*** or ***the handicapped***.

The young and ***the old*** don’t always understand each other.

- Adjectives denoting an abstract quality (singular), for example *the supernatural* = ‘that which is supernatural’:

Do you believe in ***the supernatural?***

Adverbials

(see CGEL Chapter 8)

449 Adverbials often tell us something extra about an action, happening or state as described by the rest of the sentence, for example:

- the time when it happened (time adverbial):

We got together ***late in the evening.***

- the place where it happened (place adverbial):

Will you be staying ***in a hotel?***

- the manner in which it happened (manner adverbial):

We have to study this plan ***very carefully.***

There are of course many other meanings of adverbials. The meanings of adverbials are dealt with in Part Two (see 151–206). Here we will discuss the different forms and positions that adverbials can have in sentences.

The forms of adverbials

450 The position that adverbials can occupy depends very much on their form, and they have a number of different forms. Adverbials can be

- adverbs or adverb phrases (see 464):

A friend of mine has ***very kindly*** offered to baby-sit.

- prepositional phrases (see 654):

I found several people waiting ***outside the doctor's door***.
- noun phrases (see 595):

What are you doing ***this afternoon***?
- clauses with a finite verb (see 492):

We have to preserve these buildings ***before it's too late***.
- infinitive clauses (see 493):

As usual, Sarah was playing ***to win***.
- -ing participle clauses (see 493):

Mrs Cole filled her teacup, ***adding a touch of skimmed milk***.
- -ed participle clauses (see 493):

Two people were found dead, ***presumably killed by cars***.
- verbless clauses (see 494):

The actor admitted to driving ***while under the influence of drink***.

The positions of adverbials: front, mid or end?

451 Most adverbials are mobile, so that they can occur in different places in the sentence. We distinguish three main positions:

- Front-position is before the subject:

Fortunately I had plenty of food with me.
- Mid-position is immediately before the main verb, if no auxiliaries are present (the verb phrase printed in **bold**):

His wife ***never protests*** and she ***always agrees*** with him.

If there is an auxiliary verb present, the adverbial is placed after the auxiliary:

You'll never be lonely because we ***will often come*** along and pay visits.

If there is more than one auxiliary verb present, the adverbial is placed after the first auxiliary (called the operator, see 609):

This is an idea which ***has never been tried***.

This is an idea which ***may never have been tried***.

Occasionally a mid-position adverbial comes before the operator (see 261, 610). This may, for example, happen when the operator (including the linking verb *be*) is stressed for the purpose of contrast:

It **never was** my intention to make things difficult for you.

- End-position is after the verb, if there is no object or complement present:
I'd like to **leave as soon as possible**.

An adverbial in end-position comes after an object or complement:

Please don't **call** me **before nine o'clock**.

The place of an adverbial depends partly on its form (whether it is an adverb, a prepositional phrase, a clause, etc.), partly on its meaning (whether it denotes time, place, manner, degree, etc.). End-focus and end-weight also play a part (see 408).

Long and short adverbials

452 Long adverbials normally occur in end-position.

Clair's going **to Chicago on Monday next week**.

There will be delegations from several countries **at the opening meeting of the conference in Rio de Janeiro later this year**.

He was a complete failure **as far as mathematics is concerned**.

Long adverbials rarely occur in mid-position. Mid-position is usually restricted to short adverbs like *almost, hardly, just, never*:

Our chairman **just** resigned.

Front-position gives contrast, or provides the background or setting for the clause which follows:

As far as mathematics is concerned, he was a complete failure.

Outside the window a low and cold bank of cloud hung over the streets of our little town.

Last year there were riots. **Now** we have strikes and demonstrations.

Adverbials denoting manner, means, and instrument:

Did you come by bus?

453 Adverbials which denote manner, means, and instrument (see *further* 194–7) usually have end-position:

Will you be coming **by car**?

He threatened the shop owner **with a big knife**.

The conference opened **formally** today.

In the passive, however, mid-position is common:

The conference was **formally** opened by the Secretary-General.

In an active sentence like this one, **well** can only have end-position:

The Secretary-General put the point **well**.

But in the corresponding passive sentence we can have either end- or mid-position:

- ~ The point was put **well**.
- ~ The point was **well** put.

Place adverbials: *See you at the gym.*

454 Place adverbials (see further 170–92) usually have end-position:

Today's meeting will be **in room 205**.

He showered, shaved, dressed and went down **to the breakfast room**.

Hans Christian Andersen, the master of the fairy tale, was born **in Denmark in the town of Odense**.

Two place adverbials can occur together in end-position, usually with the smaller location before the larger one:

Many people eat [**in Japanese restaurants**] [**in the United States**].

Only the larger locational unit can be moved to front-position:

In the United States many people eat ***in Japanese restaurants***.

Time adverbials: *I haven't seen Anna for a long time.*

455 There are three types of time adverbials (for a more detailed discussion see 151–69):

- adverbials denoting time-when (see 456, 151–9):
I'll send you an e-mail **when I get the results**.
- adverbials denoting duration (see 457, 161–5):

I haven't seen Anna **for a long time**. adverbials denoting frequency (see 458, 166–9):

This week I'll be in the office **every day**.

Time-when adverbials: *See you tomorrow.*

456 Adverbials which denote a point of time or a period of time normally have end-position:

I hope to see you **tomorrow**.

My father retired **last year**.

The rail strike lasted **for a whole week**.

Adverbials such as *once* and *recently*, which denote a point of time, but also imply the point from which that time is measured, occur either in front-, mid- or end-position:

Once you said you'd like to be a vet.

You **once** said you'd like to be a vet.

You said **once** you'd like to be a vet.

In end-position these adverbs often have a rising-tone nucleus (see 406):

| We owned an Alsatian dog | ónce. |

Time duration adverbials: *Don't stay too long!*

457 Time duration adverbials normally have end-position:

I'll be in California **for the summer**.

The security guards were on duty **all night long**.

I've been staying here **since last Saturday**.

But single-word adverbs usually take mid-position:

Jessica Smith has **temporarily** taken over the art column of the newspaper.

Time frequency adverbials: *I jog every morning*.

458 Time frequency adverbials denoting definite frequency usually have end-position:

Your salary will be paid **monthly**.

Our office gets about a hundred requests **every day**.

About this question we have to think **twice**.

Time frequency adverbs denoting indefinite frequency typically have mid-position (but see 610 on contrastive function). Such adverbs are, for example, *always*, *nearly always*, *ever*, *frequently*, *generally*, *never*, *normally*, *occasionally*, *often*, *rarely*, *regularly*, *seldom*, *sometimes*, *usually*:

You are **always** assured of a warm and friendly welcome here.

Daniel **generally** leaves home at seven in the morning.

We don't **normally** go to bed before midnight.

Mr Lake was **occasionally** carried away by his own enthusiasm.

Important decisions can **rarely** be based on complete unanimity.

At night the temperature **regularly** drops to minus five degrees Celsius.

Women **usually** live longer than men.

But prepositional phrases denoting indefinite frequency have front- or end-position:

As a rule it's very quiet here during the day.

~ It's very quiet here during the day, **as a rule**.

On several occasions we've had reason to complain.

~ We've had reason to complain **on several occasions**.

Degree adverbials: *I fully agree with you.*

459 Degree adverbials like *definitely*, *entirely*, *really*, *thoroughly*, *very much* have a heightening effect on some part of the sentence (see further 215–23). Degree adverbs often occur in mid-position:

Abigail and I are **definitely** going to join the salsa club next year.

I **entirely** agree with your diagnosis.

I don't think this **really** affects the situation at all.

Your frustration is **thoroughly** justified.

We'd **very much** appreciate some further information.

There are also degree adverbs like *hardly*, *nearly*, *rather* and *scarcely* which have a lowering effect. They also have mid-position:

We can **hardly** expect people to take this election seriously.

Your friends **nearly** missed you at the airport.

I **rather** doubt I'll be back before nine tonight.

Jim felt Zoe was **scarcely** listening to what he was saying.

For emphasis, degree adverbs can occur before the operator:

I **really** don't know where we would be without you.

I **simply** can't speak too highly of our English teacher.

For some degree adverbials end-position is also possible:

Fortunately, our relationship did not cease **entirely**.

Two or more adverbials: See you *in class tomorrow*.

460 Time adverbials in end-position tend to occur in the order **duration + frequency + time-when**. In the following examples the different adverbials are indicated by square brackets:

Our electricity was cut off [**briefly**] [**today**].

I'm paying my rent [**monthly**] [**this year**].

I used to swim [**for an hour or so**] [**every day**] [**when I was younger**].

When more than one of the main classes of adverbials occur in end-position, the normal order is **manner/means/instrument + place + time**:

We go [**to bed**] [**very early**].

I have to rush to get [**into the supermarket**] [**before they close**].

Place adverbials tend to follow verbs of movement immediately and can therefore come before manner adverbials:

Anna put the crystal vase [**on the table**] [**with the utmost care**].

An adverbial clause normally comes after other adverbial structures (adverbs, prepositional phrases, etc.):

We plan to stop [**for a few days**] [**wherever we can find reasonable accommodation**].

A sentence like this one with a string of end-placed prepositional phrases is 'heavy':

The mayor was working [**on her speech**] [**in the office**] [**the whole morning**].

Some adverbials which normally have end-position can be put in front-position to avoid having too many adverbials at the end of a sentence:

[**The whole morning**], the mayor was working [**on her speech**] [**in the office**].

It is not usual for more than one adverbial to be in front-position or mid-position, but there are exceptions. For example, to introduce a new topic in a conversation we might find sentences like this one:

| Anyway | the next morning | somehow or other | I hadn't got any
business to do. |

Sentence adverbials: *Frankly*, this isn't good enough.

461 The adverbials we have discussed so far are integrated to some extent in the structure of the sentence. For example, they can modify the verb:

Alex **always** drives **carefully**.

and they can be affected by negation:

Alex doesn't **always** drive **carefully**.

Here both *always* and *carefully* are in the scope of the negative (see 261).

462 There is also another type of adverbials, **sentence adverbials**, which are not integrated but are peripheral to the sentence structure. The difference between the integrated and peripheral types becomes clear with adverbs that can have both functions:

| It all happened quite naturally. | [*naturally* is a manner adverbial = 'in a natural manner']

| Naturally | the population is rising. | [*naturally* is a sentence adverbial = 'of course']

Haven't you eaten your breakfast *yet*? [*yet* is a time adverbial = 'so far']

Yet the police have failed to produce any evidence. [*yet* is a sentence adverbial = 'nevertheless']

463 Sentence adverbials have a wide range of possible structures (see further 308, 352–9). For example, instead of the adverb *frankly* in this sentence

Frankly, this isn't good enough.

we could use infinitive clauses like *to be frank*, *to put it frankly*, -ing participle clauses like *frankly speaking*, or finite verb clauses like *if I may be frank*.

Sentence adverbials often convey speakers' comments on the content of what they are saying:

Certainly Nicole's German is very fluent.

The document should be signed, **hopefully** by December.

Of course, nobody imagines that Mr Brown will ever repay the loan.

Strangely enough, Harry's face reminds me vividly of Eleanor Peters.

To be sure, we've heard many such promises before.

Surely no other novelist can give such a vivid description.

Unfortunately that is an oversimplification of the problem.

Other sentence adverbials with this function are, for example, *actually*, *admittedly*, *definitely*, *fortunately*, *in fact*, *indeed*, *luckily*, *obviously*, *officially*,

possibly, preferably, really, superficially, surprisingly, technically, theoretically.

Sentence adverbials like *however*, *therefore*, *moreover*, have a connective role:

The hockey team didn't like the food. **However**, they have not complained.

The usual place for most sentence adverbials is front-position. They are often separated from what follows by a tone unit boundary in speech, or a comma in writing:

<Spoken> | Obviously | they expect us to be on time. |

<Written> Obviously, they expect us to be on time.

Adverbs

(see CGEL 7.46–70)

464 Most adverbs are formed from adjectives with the suffix *-ly*: *frank/frankly*, *happy/happily*, etc. (For the change in spelling from *y* to *i* in *happy/happily*, etc., see 701.)

Adverbs have two typical functions: as adverbial in sentences and as modifier of adjectives, adverbs and other phrases.

- Adverb as adverbial (see 449):

The conference was **carefully** planned.

- Adverb as modifier of adjectives (see 465):

Louise is an **extremely** talented young woman.

- Adverb as modifier of other adverbs (see 465):

One has to read this document **very** closely between the lines.

- Adverb as modifier of prepositions, etc. (see 466):

We live **just** outside of Chicago.

Adverbs as modifiers of adjectives and other adverbs:

That's a very good idea!

465 Most modifying adverbs are degree adverbs like *absolutely*, *extremely*, *rather* (see 215, 459).

- When an adverb modifies an adjective, the adverb regularly precedes the adjective:

I thought it was an **absolutely** awful show myself. <familiar>

George said everybody was **deeply** affected.

It's **extremely** good of you to do this for me.

Rachel's **rather** tall for her age, isn't she?

But **enough** is placed after its adjective:

No, this just isn't good **enough!**

We were naive **enough** to be taken in.

When **too** and **how** modify an adjective in a noun phrase, the indefinite article is placed after the adjective. Compare these two sentences:

Charlotte's a good accountant and never makes any mistakes.

BUT: Charlotte's **too** good **an** accountant to make any mistakes.

How strange **a** feeling it was, seeing my old school again! <elevated>

- An adverb which modifies another adverb is placed before the adverb:

Melissa did **rather** well in her exams.

However, **enough** is an exception, and is placed after the adverb:

Oddly **enough**, nothing valuable was stolen.

Adverbs as modifiers of prepositions, etc.: *I'm dead against it.*

466 An adverb can also modify

- **a preposition**: Emily's parents are *dead* against her hitch-hiking. <familiar>
- **a determiner** (see 522): The Johnsons seem to have *hardly* any books at home.
- **a numeral** (see 602): Over two hundred deaths were reported after the disaster.
- **a pronoun** (see 661): *Nearly* everybody seemed to be at the party.

The modifier **else**: *What else can we do?*

467 *Else* can modify

- the quantifiers *much* and *little* and is placed after these headwords:

The Nelsons seem to do **little else** but watch TV in the evening.

- the adverbs ending in *-where*:

Hey Bill, let's go **somewhere else!**

- the interrogatives *who*, *what*, *how* and *where*:

What else can we do?

- the pronouns ending in *-body*, *-one*, *-thing*:

Why don't you ask **somebody else**?

However, with determiners like *some*, *other* is used instead of *else*. These two sentences have the same meaning:

Someone else will have to take my place.

~ **Some other person** will have to take my place.

Adverbs as modifiers of nouns or noun phrases: **What a fool he is!**

468 The degree words *quite*, *rather*, *such*, and *what* (in exclamations) can modify noun phrases:

My grandmother used to tell me **such** funny stories.

The noun phrase is normally indefinite, and the degree word precedes the indefinite article (see 524):

She told me **such** a funny story.

The place was in **rather** a mess. <informal>

What a fool he is!

Some adverbs of place (e.g. *home*) or time (e.g. *before*, *ahead*) can modify nouns. The adverb is placed after the noun (see 648):

Our journey **home** was pretty awful.

The weather was fine the day **before**.

We always try to plan several years **ahead**.

In some phrases the adverb can stand both before and after the noun:

an **upstairs** window ~ a window **upstairs**

the **above** table ~ the table **above** (BUT ONLY: the table **below**, NOT *the **below** table)

Adverbs as complements of prepositions:

I don't know anybody around here.

469 Some adverbs of place (such as *here*, *home*, *downstairs*) and time (such as *today*, *later*, *yesterday*) act as complements of prepositions (printed in **bold**):

I don't know anybody ***around here***. <informal>

Are we far ***from home***?

Ben shouted at me ***from downstairs***.

After today, there will be no more concerts until October.

I'm saving the chocolates you gave me ***for later***.

I haven't eaten ***since yesterday***.

Here are more examples of the preposition *from* + adverb combinations: *from above*, *from abroad*, *from below*, *from inside*, *from outside*. Several prepositions can form combinations with the place adverbs *here* and *there*, for example:

from here, from there

near here, near there

through here, through there

in here, in there

over here, over there

up here, up there

Apposition

(see CGEL 17.65–93)

470 Two or more noun phrases which occur next to each other and refer to the same person or thing are said to be **in apposition**:

A famous author, Ted Johnson, is coming here next week.

The noun phrases in apposition can also occur in a different order:

Ted Johnson, a famous author, is coming here next week.

In the last sentence we can regard the second noun phrase as a reduced non-restrictive relative clause (see 693):

Ted Johnson, (who is) a famous author, is coming here next week.

The meaning relation expressed by apposition is the same as that expressed by a subject and its complement:

Ted Johnson is a famous author.

Restrictive and non-restrictive apposition: ***spokeswoman Ann Guthrie***

471 Just like relative clauses (see 692) apposition can be restrictive or non-restrictive.

- Non-restrictive apposition: